

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1) (currently amended)      A method of producing ~~a carotenoid~~ astaxanthin comprising cultivating a green microalga *Chlorella* in the dark in a medium having a ~~C/N~~ carbon:nitrogen weight ratio of at least about 18.
- 2) (currently amended)      The method of claim 1 in which the medium has a ~~C/N~~ carbon:nitrogen weight ratio of at least ~~about~~ 18.
- 3) (original)      The method of claim 2 in which the *Chlorella* is *Chlorella zofingiensis*.
- 4) (original)      The method of claim 3 wherein the medium contains glucose.
- 5) (currently amended)      The method of claim 2 further comprising adding a carbon source to a medium to achieve said ~~C/N~~ carbon:nitrogen weight ratio.
- 6) (original)      The method of claim 5 in which the carbon source added is glucose.
- 7) (original)      The method of claim 1 in which the *Chlorella* is *Chlorella zofingiensis*.
- 8) (original)      The method of claim 7 wherein the medium contains glucose.
- 9) (original)      The method of claim 1 further comprising adding a carbon source to a medium to achieve said ~~C/N~~ carbon:nitrogen weight ratio.
- 10) (original)      The method of claim 9 in which the carbon source added is glucose.
- 11) (currently amended)      In a method of cultivating a green microalga *Chlorella* on media in a dark-heterotrophic culture, the improvement which comprises

effecting the culture on a medium having a ~~C/N~~ carbon:nitrogen weight ratio of at least about 18.

12) (currently amended)      The method of claim 11, in which the ~~C/N~~ carbon:nitrogen weight ratio is at least ~~about~~ 18.

13) (original)      The method of claim 12, in which the green microalga *Chlorella* is *Chlorella zofingiensis*.

14) (original)      The method of claim 13, in which the medium contains glucose.

15) (original)      The method of claim 11, in which the green microalga *Chlorella* is *Chlorella zofingiensis*.

16) (original)      The method of claim 15, in which the medium contains glucose.